availability of about 1.5 MMTPA of R-LNG from their Dahej Terminal. Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) which is laying the Gas Pipe line to connect Dahej and Dabhol, has informed that as per present indications, the supply of R-LNG through the Dahej-Panwel-Dabhol pipeline is likely to commence by April/May, 2007.

(c) The availability of adequate R-LNG(Gas) at a price acceptable to the purchasers is presently the main impediment to commission and run the plant to its full rated capacity.

(d) The Dabhol power plant has been accorded Mega Power Project status and therefore, is required to fulfill the criteria of inter-state sale. Sale of electricity shall be in line with the CERC regulations. As per the restructuring plan, bulk of the sale of power is presently envisaged to MSEDCL subject to their signing a firm PPA with RGPPL. The financial viability of the plant is dependent upon the full load operations of all the three Power Blocks (2150 MW) on gas.

Scheme to make sea water drinkable

†2208. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific method has been invented and developed to make salty sea water as drinkable;

(b) if so, whether it has been found effective;

(c) if so, the names of the coastal areas where people are using it; and

(d) the details regarding names of other countries which are using salty sea water for drinking water and other domestic use?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body of the Ministry has indigenously designed, developed and demonstrated the desalination technology for conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

deep sea water. After conducting several experiments in the Laboratory (500 Litre per day capacity & 5000 Litre per day capacity), a LTTD plant with a capacity of 1 lakh litre/day production of fresh water was developed.

(b) and (c) The one-lakh litre per day capacity plant was commissioned at Kavaratti, one of the islands of Lakshadweep in May, 2005. The plant has been effectively working continuously since then and catering significantly to the needs of the population of Kavaratti. This plant was handed over to Lakshadweep Administration in March, 2006 for operation and maintenance. This LTTD plant has produced about 5 crore litre of water so far. The Ministry did receive the proposals from Lakshadweep 'Administration to set up eight more LTTD plants in other islands. Actions have been initiated to set up desalination plant in other two islands of the Lakshadweep. These LTTD plants are land based similar to the one commissioned at Kavaratti.

To cater to the needs of the large population of coastal cities of India, development of higher capacity plants is under way. Since there is no depth of 700 meter or so near the shore, these plants have to be barge mounted about 30 to 40 kms. away from the coast. Towards this, an LTTD plant with a capacity of one million Litre per day was designed, developed and demonstrated on experimental basis on a barge off Chennai in February, 2007. The plant could not be made operational for a longer period due to strong waves. NIOT is now working out to come out with a solution for make it operational under deep sea conditions.

(d) The other countries who are connecting salty water to drinking water include Israel, USA, Dubai etc. However, these plants are using a different technology called reverse osmosis.

New Legislation for promoting innovation and flexibility

2209. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new US-type legislation to promote innovation and flexibility in the country's universities where scientists would be given ownership of intellectual property for the first time for their creations;